
From: Gerhardt, Deborah R
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 9:25 PM
To: Welcome Carol
Subject: Welcome!

Dear Carol,

Thank you for opening this forum for us to reach out to you. Here are the two things I love most about UNC Chapel Hill:

1. I love the spirit of the UNC School of Law. What do I mean by the "spirit?" I love that even when law schools applications are down, the practice of law is in crisis, law graduates struggle to get jobs and applications are down, when I go to a Carolina alumni event, it feels like a love fest. The law school alums LOVE the law school and feel genuinely connected to it. I love that our alums are happy to help our students learn, network and find good work. I love that the spirit of public service is not just a branding slogan in the law school community—it's real. I love watching our students learn that in law practice, diligence, hard work and creativity actually can make the world a better place. After they graduate, they remember that their minds opened this way in our house. They were empowered. Those memories and the energy of our current promising students, fill the halls.
2. I love Playmakers. We are so lucky to have Joe Haj as the artistic director of this terrific theater. My family, our students and colleagues find joy, meaning and a strong sense of community at the theater. Our lives are so enriched by the beautiful provocative work they do.

What I wish we could change?

1. The hardest thing of all is watching some of our best faculty leave. It's heartbreaking. After 4 years with only one raise (and it was 1.2%), it's really hard to keep the best people.
2. I wish you would invite the NC legislature to see what we do. They are welcome in my classroom any day. If they saw my students learning about contracts— about the law and ethics of honoring promises, could they really say we aren't doing valuable work? If they saw me and my students volunteering to help low wealth entrepreneurs in rural NC get the intellectual property advice they need to start businesses would they really think we weren't worth the investments? My story is just one data point among so many. I hope you fill their ears with all the stories of all we do to improve the quality of life and economic health of this state.

Many thanks for reaching out and taking the time to read our notes. I hope to have the honor of meeting you some day soon.

With much gratitude,

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